



AMERICAN
PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION
ASSOCIATION

August 8, 2000

The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg
SH-506 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-3002

Dear Senator Lautenberg:

I write to express the support of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) for S. 1900, legislation you are sponsoring to provide a dedicated source of capital for high-speed intercity passenger rail. Your legislation would authorize the sale of \$10 billion in high-speed rail bonds between fiscal 2001 and fiscal 2010 in the private investment market. Revenue generated from the sale of these bonds would be used to upgrade existing routes to high-speed rail standards, to construct new dedicated high-speed rail tracks, to improve signaling and eliminate grade crossings, and to purchase high-speed rail equipment. Up to ten percent of the funds would be available to improve non-high-speed intercity passenger rail service nationwide.

High-speed rail is an important component of the nation's transportation network, and we are pleased to support investment in it. The innovative investment tool provided by your legislation will provide for the development of comprehensive regional strategies which will help alleviate congestion in our communities and our airports, enhance the reliability and safety of our rail and road networks, and foster intermodalism with public transportation and other modes.

We appreciate that your legislation inherently recognizes the importance of keeping intact the Highway Trust Fund and the Mass Transit Account. Certainly, there are significant investment needs in all areas of our transportation system, and it is important to address these needs in a way that will enhance the transportation system as a whole. In bringing new resources to the table from private markets, your legislation does this. The ultimate beneficiary will be the traveling public.

Thank you for your efforts to support passenger rail. We look forward to working with you on this legislation as it is considered and implemented.

Sincerely yours,

William W. Millar
President